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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 1941

PLEASE BE CAREFUL

MORE than 60,000 children in Indianapolis went back to school today. They have to cross innumerable corners dependent upon the sanity and care of thousands of us who drive automobiles.

Let's be careful if only for their sake.

RISKS

"If we are to be completely honest with ourselves, we must admit there is risk in any course we may take."—President Roosevelt.

These are true words.

Let us look at some of the risks.

If we don't supply Britain with the armament and food she needs, she might be conquered, and her navy surrendered. Then we would have to defend two oceans with our one-ocean navy. That is a risk we do not want to take. So we shall sacrifice every other effort to producing arms, and supplying Britain with what she needs.

In supplying Britain, we risk incurring the enmity of Germany, Italy and Japan. That is a risk we shall take. We have their enmity already, and we can cope with it better if Britain, with our help, can survive.

If we put no limits on our help to Britain, if we let one step lead to another, without caution or restraint, we run the risk of getting into the war, first with our Navy, then with our Army. And then we might find ourselves engaged in a years-long struggle with the continent of Europe, a struggle that might go on and on until we became an exhausted prey to civilization-destroying forces such as overwhelmed Russia, Italy and Germany after the other war.

That is a risk we must not take.

The only way to break the cycle of wars that breed revolutions and revolutions that breed new wars is to break it—break it by the decision of one great nation to make herself so strong that she can stay out of war.

ENEMIES ON OUR SHIPS

SEAMEN of the American Merchant Marine have had legitimate grievances and real need of strong organization to better their conditions. That need provided opportunity for the C. I. O. National Maritime Union.

But here, as in other fields, Communist trouble-makers also saw a great opportunity. They have undertaken to dominate the Seamen's Union and other C. I. O. unions of longshoremen and radio operators. Evidence of their activity has been plentiful. Their efforts to undermine discipline at sea and to spread subversion provided reason for grave concern, even in calmer times.

In these times, when the Merchant Marine is a vital auxiliary of national defense, such activity is intolerably dangerous. For the Communists are not serving the real interests of labor. Their prime purpose is to wreck the defense program. Realization of that fact undoubtedly is behind the Washington reports that the Navy has plans to take over the entire Merchant Marine in time of emergency or war, replacing civilian seamen and radio operators with blue-jackets.

So we're glad that members of Congress are taking interest in this situation, seeking information about the extent of Communist control in the maritime unions and demanding an end to such control. Rep. Dirksen of Illinois goes so far as to propose a law to bring all merchant ship crews into the active naval reserve "during the defense emergency."

We're not so sure of the wisdom of that proposal. Four years ago the Navy undertook to enroll 30,000 seamen in the Merchant Marine Naval Reserve. Actually, it has enrolled only 339. The Dirksen plan, it seems to us, might bring into the reserve a great group of men who don't want to be there, including many Communists and sympathizers whose opportunities for doing harm might be increased.

We believe that the great majority of the 65,000 seamen on American merchant ships are loyal to the country, that they are unwilling victims of a perniciously active Communist minority and that it would be a genuine service to them—as well as to the country—to drive the Communists out of places of influence in their union. As a logical first step, we applaud the request of the U. S. Maritime Commission by Rep. Keefe of Wisconsin for a full and frank report on Communistic activity on ships under its jurisdiction.

Such a report might well impel the C. I. O. high command, under the new leadership of Philip Murray, to help loyal rank-and-file members of the maritime unions in overthrowing Communist control. That would preserve the unions for their real and essential purpose. If the unions do not clean house, sterner measures may become inevitable, for the American people, in our opinion, will demand that the personnel of the Merchant Marine—to which President Roosevelt has just proposed to add 200 new vessels at a cost of \$300,000,000—be freed of the influence of enemies and saboteurs.

BOYS AND MEN FIRST

IN the movies, as in some other enterprises, they pay off in the box office.

The customers say Mickey Rooney is tops in his business with Spencer Tracy second, Clark Gable third and Gene Autry fourth. Among the women, Bette Davis ranked highest, but there were eight men who drew more cash through the ticket window.

We don't know what this proves, unless it proves that the movies are attended by more wives, sisters and daughters than by husbands, brothers and sons. Men must work while women must weep or emot.

Fair Enough

By Westbrook Pegler

Congressional Inquiry as Urged By Smith Committee Would Be Sure To Revise Opinions on Some Unions

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—The most important recommendation of the Smith committee of the House of Representatives which investigated the Labor Board and the Wagner Act was the one which proposed a Congressional study of the whole question of labor relations. Of course, events may rush upon us in a storm and prevent orderly consideration, but I am assuming, for the moment, that it will be possible to poke along in a deliberate and sure-footed way. If that is done Congress is sure to cure its mind of a great many superstitions concerning the structure and practice of unions.

It would be just as well to admit that the Wagner Act, as originally passed, was an emotional item of legislation which revealed great ignorance of the subject of unions. Surely Congress would not have passed this law had the fact been known that professional criminals were operating some of the important unions of the American Federation of Labor and were represented in its executive council, and that this big parent organization disclaimed both the power and the duty to clean house. Congress would not have taken the responsibility for driving hundreds of thousands of workers into unions against their will.

IT is impossible to believe that, even in those emotional days, Congress knowingly would have become a party to a deal by which unions were given the power to intimidate workers in public elections, and even to shake down workers and employers as well for political party funds.

These are some of the discoveries that have been made since the Wagner Act was hailed as Labor's Magna Charta, the law which was supposed only to guarantee the right of collective bargaining but which created abuses as bad as those which it was intended to correct. A calm inquiry would show that in the union of Sidney Hillman himself voters were coerced in the last election in a manner which, invoked by an employer, would have landed the rascal in jail.

It would show that a local of David Dubinsky's union ordered its members to attend a political rally for Senator Mead of New York, under penalty for failure. And, of course, it would prove that the Wagner Act established a legal basis for the operation of rackete in the expense of the workers, industry, the national defense and workable relations between labor and industry.

To recapture the mood of the time when the Wagner Act was passed, it may be recalled that the American Federation of Labor was commonly and correctly regarded as a great, voluntary organization of workers standing together, against abuses by the employers, but still in need of Federal backing to thwart the bosses at their dirty practices. But that was just a general impression which made the employers, as a class, appear to be a bad lot and the unions, as a class, innocent and noble groups.

NOW it is plain that all employers were not cruel and greedy and that there were some very bad men in control of the unions, including some clever rough-and-tumble swindlers who held their power by the methods of the grafting political boss and lacked the criminal records only because tradition warned the public prosecutors to lay off the unions.

There are plenty of honest union leaders who would testify, if placed under oath, to the perfidy of other union leaders, and it would take no squealer to reveal, under intelligent questioning, that the American Federation of Labor is a enormous public government, but in an exaggerated form because they have been practically immune from public inspection and governmental restraint.

Once the facts were revealed, Congress would be bound to adopt some legislation to abolish, rather than to amend, the Wagner Act, which is not a dramatic proposal of the midget-on-lap type. A few individual workers could be used at witnesses to prove various forms of oppression by unions, but the union powers and practices could be learned by examination of their constitutions and their history. A union which has not held a convention in 30 years for example, cannot be said to represent the will of the workers.

Business

By John T. Flynn

Gold Pressure Causing Worry, but Nothing Can Be Done at This Time

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—The pressure of the gold that is getting in our hair is forcing Federal money controllers to act.

The simple truth is that we have a wildcat by the gold episode is a perfect example of what happens when an unconsidered and foolish policy is once adopted. When the mistake is discovered, the conditions that have been produced by the mistake are so vast that it is impossible to cure the mistake without creating worse conditions than when the mistake was made.

The gold purchasing plan should have been abandoned in 1936. Every year after that the dangerous effect became more serious. Abandonment of it now might well produce such a grave unsettlement of world exchange markets as to make the world tremble. It is the chief trade, we now enjoy—an impossible.

England is the largest producer of gold. She mines about \$70,000,000 of gold a year.

She turns her \$25 an ounce.

If we stop buying at the guaranteed price of \$35 an ounce the purchasing power of her gold and the subsidy which she gets in fact out of our gold-buying policy will be impaired if not removed.

THE cost of everything England is buying here might be immediately increased, and she would in turn be forced to do something about her currency—a thing she cannot do as matters stand. We might be immediately confronted with an unfavorable balance of trade and a collapse of one of the chief props of the fictitious prosperity we enjoy.

The tide of protest against the gold-buying policy, nevertheless, continues to rise. The utter madness of the scheme becomes daily more apparent as the world's gold pours in on us and our whole banking structure becomes more and more affected by it. Yet grave as it is, there is nothing that can be done about it, particularly now.

It is, however, reassuring to find the Reserve Board at the point where it at least feels that some sort of counter-balancing force must be brought into existence.

So They Say—

LET US MAKE the wish that America will, throughout the coming year, be strong to do the right as God gives her to see the right.—President Kenneth Irving Brown, Denison University.

THE FUNDAMENTAL element in the discipline of the mind of the free man is a love of truth.—President E. E. Day of Cornell University.

IN THE SORROWFUL international period in which we are living, no country in the world can be insensible to the suffering of others.—President Avila Camacho of Mexico.

DEMOCRACY is not merely a good form of government; it is the best.—President Robert M. Hutchins, University of Chicago.

THIS IS NOT A world that can be saved by professional humanitarians.—Clarence Pickett, Quaker relief worker.

FOR MY OWN part I want no single step taken relating to war that is not given time for public debate.—Herbert Hoover.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

Just to Be Sure He Doesn't Take Off!



The Hoosier Forum

I wholly disagree with what you say, but will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire.

FAVORS THE AX FOR PINBALL MACHINES

By Times Reader

The papers reveal actions being taken against some pinball machine operations. It's about time something should be done about these machines that are scattered all over the city—whether they are being used for gambling purposes or not. The suggestion of using an ax on all of these machines would be the best thing that could happen to them. At least it would be the end of one easy method of taking money from minors which seems to be within the law.

EXPRESSING DISLIKE FOR CURRENT RADIO MUSIC

By Mrs. D. E. Day

Why do 130 million people have to listen to this putrid music on our radios?

We can speak our American language well enough to be understood—sometimes. There are few Swedes and Nordics, those few have high paying jobs.

SAYING A KIND WORD FOR THE PEASERS

By E. L.

So you're an appeaser, eh? Shame on you. For, according to the President's inflections, an appeaser is a nasty bit of moral degeneracy one shouldn't be caught touching with a ten-foot pole.

All of which makes us gals charged with keeping the fires burning pretty red in the face.

We're the world's foremost

apeavers and always have been.

Our motto, moreover, for preventing disastrous domestic wars, if we want to stay out of divorce courts, coincides with that ancient Chinese saw: "To keep the family peace one must bear and forbear seven times seven.

Appeasement and forbearance are twins, with lively sense of justice, much kindness and love. We can have no chips on the shoulders; bitterness and rancor are banished along with hate and the favorite paths by which they travel and the favorite language of life and understanding.

I have been doing much listening, little talking and reading. The Times' editorials and columns every

time I have read them.

Probably every woman who put a

ASSETS BRITISH LIKE TO OUR MONEY

By W. F.

The British tell us persistently that they can take it. Naturally we believe it, but we must understand they mean our money. They are always ready to take everything they can get, but they never give back what they have taken. We better leave them alone—let Germans give it to them.

CLOCK OF JANUARY

By MARY P. DENNY

TICK-tock, tick-tock. Hear the clock of the New Year. Bright and clear, bright and clear. Sounding forth the hours of time. In a free and glorious chime. Songs of all the coming year. Summer, winter and bright spring. Ring a joy in everything.

Counting off the glowing hours.

To all the trees and flowers that tower.

Gives to all of nature wing.

Simple joy to all that sing.

TICK-tock, tick-tock.

Hear the clock of the New Year.

1-16.

MAN IS UNJUST, but God is just; and finally justice triumphs.

Longfellow.

DAILY THOUGHT

And I charged your judges at

the time, saying, Hear the causes

between your brethren, and judge

righteously between every man

and his brother, and the stranger

that is with him.—Deuteronomy 1:16.

MAN IS UNJUST, but God is just; and finally justice triumphs.

Longfellow.

Fruits, especially the citrus fruits and tomatoes,

and green leafy vegetables and some of the yellow

colored vegetables belong in every diet for the

vitamins and minerals they contain.

Those trying to gain weight can add extra butter or cream sauce to their vegetables.

MONDAY, JAN. 6, 1941

Gen. Johnson Says—

Federal Reserve Suggestions and Partial Approval by Roosevelt May Remove Danger of Inflation

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Nothing more necessary and constructive than the Federal Reserve anti-inflation recommendations has come out of Government in a long time, and nothing more hopeful than the President's apparent acceptance of them at least in part. Early in his first

Administration, Mr. Roosevelt was "sold" a cluster of schemes to increase deflated prices by monkeying with money, debasing